Preservation of Mullaperiyar Dam

*510. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed any Committee to study the safety of the Mullaperiyar Dam;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee heard the views expressed by the State Government of Kerala; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to preserve this hundred years old dam?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) A Committee headed by Member (D and R), Central Water Commission and with the following members was constituted by Ministry of Water Resources in June, 2000 to study the safety of Mullaperiyar Dam.

1.	Chief Engineer (NWANDS)	—Member
2.	Mr. R.S. Varshney (retired Professor from Roorkee University)	—Member
3.	Mr. J.K. Tiwari, Director Dam Safety, Govt. of Madhya Pradesh	—Member
4.	Chief Engineer (Design/Dam Safety) Govt. of Kerala (to be nominated by Chief Secretary, Govt. of Kerala)	—Member
5.	Chief Engineer (O & M/Dam. Safety) Govt. of Tamil Nadu (to be nominated by Govt. of Tamil Nadu)	—Member
6.	Chief Engineer (DSO), CWC	—Member Secretary

The terms of reference to the Committee were as under:

(i) To study the safety of Mullaperiyar dam located on Periyar river in Kerala with respect to the strengthening of dam carried out by the Government of Tamil Nadu in accordance with the strengthening measures suggested by CWC and to report/advise the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources on the safety of dam.

(ii) To advise the Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources regarding raising of water level in Mullaperiyar reservoir beyond 136 ft. (41.45 m) as a result of strengthening of the dam and its safety as at (a) above.

(iii) The Committee will visit the dam to have first hand information and to assess the safety aspects of the dam. It will hold discussions with Secretary, Irrigation of the Kerala Government as well as Secretary, PWD, Government of Tamil Nadu with respect of safety of the dam and other related issues.

The Committee submitted its Final Report to the Ministry of Water Resources in March, 2001, which has been filed in the Supreme Court as the issue is *subjudice*.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Central Water Commission has already identified the various strengthening measures on the main dam and the Baby dam which are required to be implemented by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the cooperation of the Government of Kerala.